THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The investigation into "Shivani Bhatnagar murder case" has been assigned to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The case is still under investigation and Delhi Police is of the view that it is not in the interest of investigation to disclose any details at this stage. However, Delhi Police have denied that there has been any demand from the husband of the deceased to question any Union Minister in connection with the murder of his wife. Delhi Police have further reported that the investigation carried out so far has also not revealed any material to suggest any involvement of a Union Minister.

(e) The investigation into this case is being conducted with all vigour and under close supervision of senior police officers. However, it is difficult to indicate a time frame for the completion of the investigation.

Privatisation of Civic Services

*370. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are preparing a plan to privatise water supply, sanitation and sewer services on a mass scale ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;

(c) by when the plan is likely to be executed ;

(d) whether the private agencies entrusted with these functions would be subjected to the supervision of a Statutory Regulatory Authority to be set up for the purpose ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (e) : As far as rural drinking water supply, sanitation and sewerage services are concerned, no proposal of privatisation is under consideration of the Government at present.

As far as urban water supply, sanitation and sewerage services are concerned, the Constitution has extended the responsibility of providing water supply and sanitation in urban areas to the State Governments. It is for the State Government to take a decision regarding privatisation of these services.